

**Planners Recommend Methodists' Variance**

A request of the First Methodist Church for a variance to extend its new sanctuary with-in five feet of the Manuel Ave. property line and to reduce the setback on El Prado was recommended for approval by the Torrance Planning Commission Wednesday night at a special meeting.

**Garage Fire Extinguished**

Some damage to a garage at 2088 Middlebrook Rd. was apparently caused by a cigaret thrown in a wastebasket, Torrance firemen reported yesterday. The fire, reported at 1:45 a.m. yesterday, was extinguished by the occupant, Al Devenish, with a garden hose, however.

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**MUSIC WINNERS . . .** Gary Rippstein, 18, of 2436 Gramercy Ave., and Mae Denton, 15, of 2650 W. Carson St., are two of the three winners of the Student Music Competition sponsored by the Youth Band-Artists Concerts Assn. The musicians will receive \$100 cash scholarships each. Third winner was Jan Jordan, 15, Palos Verdes pianist.



**PARENTS-TO-BE? . . .** These two talking Coleto Mynah birds at the Palos Verdes Bird Farm seem to be building a nest and owners Henry Bates and Jack Busenbark are hoping that they are preparing to raise a family. If they do, it will be the first time that the birds have been known to mate in captivity. One speaks Spanish while the other is speechless—so far.

**Safe Driving Over Holiday Urged by Safety Council**

Sane driving kept the 1956 Memorial Day traffic toll at a minimum, J. T. Blalock, president, Greater Los Angeles Safety Council, said today as he urged motorists to exercise caution over the coming holiday.

Last year, Blalock said, traffic deaths throughout the nation averaged 110 daily. Safe and sane driving over the Memorial Day holiday dropped the figure for that day to 101, California, he said, averaged 10 traffic deaths daily during 1956, but the Memorial Day toll jumped to 13.

"Although this increase may appear to be statistically insignificant," Blalock said, "it does point to the increased hazards of holiday travel. And the fact that a total of 3604 motorists were killed in California last year—an increase of nearly 400 over 1955—is certainly cause for alarm."

Blalock said National Safety Council studies of holiday accidents show that regardless of the season, bottle happy and throttle happy drivers account for the majority of holiday mishaps. Victims of holiday accidents, he said, are usually speeding drivers who, in approximately 50 per cent of the fatal accidents, had been drinking. Normally, drinking drivers are involved in approximately 25 per cent of all fatal accidents.

Contrary to popular belief, Blalock said, the race to reach the holiday spot is more deadly than the race home. The Council's studies also show he said, that the driver is usually the only one killed in holiday accidents.

The Safety Council president suggested that motorists plan trips within easy driving range, start early enough to allow plenty of driving time, and travel at 10 miles below normal driving speeds to compensate for increased traffic hazards.

**BIRD FARM OPERATORS HOPING FOR 'FAMILY'**

Henry J. Bates and Robert L. Busenbark, proprietors of the Palos Verdes Bird Farm, may become proud "godfathers"—they hope.

The bird farm recently acquired two talking Coleto Mynah birds from the Philippine Islands, and the pair seem to be set up housekeeping to raise a family. Bates said that to his knowledge, this variety of Mynah bird never has mated in captivity. This variety of bird is rare, he said, with probably only about a dozen in the U. S.

Make Nest  
The pink-crested birds have been pulling leaves off plants and ripping up a broom to gather materials for a nest. The bird farm owners are hopeful that one of the pair will lay eggs to raise little Mynah birds.

Since there is no physical way for humans to tell the sex of a Mynah bird, Bates and

**Attacks Other Bird**

In addition, what is believed to be the male also makes vicious attacks upon a third Mynah bird at the farm, although he ignores blackbirds, cockatiels, and other varieties of birds. For these reasons, the bird men think they have a pair and a potential family.

The sweet talk which passes between the two "lovebirds" if that's what they turn out to be must be in bird talk, however. One of the talking birds speaks Spanish which he learned in the Philippines, while the other hasn't learned to talk human-fashion yet.

**Food Sale Scheduled**

Members of the Torrance Adult Club will sponsor a home-made food sale this Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in front of Newberry's Store. Proceeds will be used to buy new curtains for the center, 1316 Cravens Ave.

**Torrance Herald**

Established Jan. 1, 1914  
Publication office and plant at 1619 Gramercy Ave., Torrance, Calif.  
Published Semi-Weekly, Thursday and Sunday. Entered as second class matter January 30, 1914, at Post Office, Torrance, California, under act of March 3, 1879.  
Adjudicated a legal Newspaper by Superior Court, Los Angeles County, Adjudicated Decree No. 81870, March 30, 1927.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: By carrier, 45c a month; Mail subscriptions \$3.40 a year. Circulation office: FA 8-4000.

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